Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am writing on behalf of the many animals that have no voice, but live in pain and suffering each and every day. There are many downed animals that simply suffer because of our negligence and lack of compassion for life. I would urge you to please consider granting the petition to end the slaughtering of downed animals. Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no economic hardship.

If a cow is dyeing out of sickness, and no one has cared for it why should our families have to eat it? In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (ovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease that has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease)! Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.
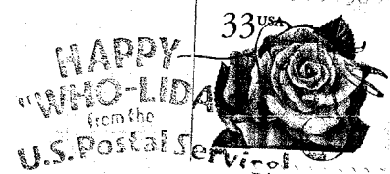
This really is a chance to stand up for a part of life that is left by the wayside so much of the time. Once an animal has become a "downed animal" it has one more burden to brunt. It is practically impossible to move a downed animal humanely, they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains (!)- Inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Thank you again for reading my letter. I am an animal lover, and a lover of all life. I vote we put an end to the slaughtering of downed animals and say "Yes!" to health and happiness for all.

Gretchen Bradley

Gretchen Bradley
Vancouver, WA

98P-0151

C 2748

Bradley
13717 NW 2nd ave. #T163
Vancouver. WA
98685

U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMIN.
*DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH
5600 FISHERS LANE, ROOM 1061
ROCKVILLE, MD
20785

20852/1750